

Louisiana Scholars College Established at NSU

A Louisiana Scholars College for the Liberal Arts and Sciences to serve academically gifted and artistically talented college students was established at Northwestern State University March 26 in action by the Louisiana Board of Regents for Higher Education.

Northwestern President Dr. Robert Alost said the Scholars College, which will be a part of NSU's main campus at Natchitoches, will be highly selective in the admission of students. Northwestern's open admissions policy will continue throughout the remainder of the university.

Alost said recruitment of students for the Louisiana Scholars College will begin immediately, and the first class will enter next fall. He indicated that the Scholars College could have an enrollment of 200 in the fall of 1987 and that enrollment could reach 1,000 by 1990.

Scholarships will be available to students selected for admission. Applications will be accepted from out-of-state students, but a minimum of 90 percent of students selected for admission will be from Louisiana.

Students in the Scholars College will be engaged in an intense Liberal Arts Degree program with three primary areas of concentration--pre-professional, high technology

and creative and performing arts.

"The Louisiana Scholars College will be the state's first public selective admission program in liberal arts for Louisiana's finest scholars," Alost said.

He said the selection of Northwestern as the exclusive site for a Scholars College in Liberal Arts and Sciences by the Board of Regents "is a prestigious designation that is unprecedented in Louisiana."

Dr. Dale Thorn, vice-president for academic affairs at Northwestern, said NSU was chosen to establish the new College "because of the institution's commitment to excellence, its innovative plan for the creation of the Scholars College and the experience of President Alost in the establishment and development of the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts."

The NSU president said the Scholars College "is being tailored to meet the challenges to higher education offered by the Carnegie Commission, National Institute of Education and the Association of American Colleges in recent critiques of the undergraduate experience in higher education."

Alost stated that faculty members "who are authorities in their subject matter fields and who have experience and expertise in serving academi-

cally superior students" will be recruited nationwide for the Scholars College.

The Scholars College will have a full-time faculty of 10 in the first year, including two master teachers. Adjunct professors, artists and writers-in-residence and guest lecturers will also work with Scholars College students.

Alost said the Louisiana Scholars College "will be highly competitive, accelerated, personalized and highly accountable. This accountability will assure that graduates of the Colleges are competitive nationally and worldwide."

Special classrooms, research facilities and dormitories will be provided for students in the Louisiana Scholars College. Dormitories will include computer facilities, offices for faculty members who will be available to assist students and other features designed to serve the needs of highly motivated students.

The projected cost of the first year of operation of the Scholars College is some \$650,000, and Alost made Northwestern "has in its substantial reductions provide operating costs to Scholars College."

He explained that per capita costs have been reduced by nearly \$1.2 million.

"25 graduate and nine undergraduate programs have been terminated. These were non-productive programs which did not have adequate production to justify costs. The elimination of those programs provides funds for the Scholars College, which will be extremely productive."

Alost said the Scholars College "will offer a living and learning environment that fosters a community of scholars working as a close-knit intellectual family."

Scholars College students, after their first year of study, will have two major options for pursuing academic work, the Concentration Program or the Experimental Study Group.

The Concentration Program is an exploration of the unity and conflict of humanistic and technical viewpoints and ideas. Largely structured, the program promotes close and sustained contact between students and faculty and provides a coherent and balanced approach to the diversity of discipline available to students.

Students in the Experimental Study Group, a self-paced academic program, assume

responsibility for their own education. It is largely free of the constraints of time, learning methods and subject matter imposed by the regular curriculum.

A written examination in major study areas will be required of all seniors and will be evaluated by external readers.



Dr. Joseph A. Thomas of Natchitoches, athletic team physician at Northwestern for more than 35 years, died March 7. Contributions to the Joe Thomas M.D. Scholarship Fund may be sent to the NSU Foundation, Natchitoches, La. 71497. The scholarship is awarded only to students who are pursuing a degree in medicine.

Scholars Weekend Attracts 200 High School Seniors

In an effort to increase the vigorous and vibrant community of scholars at Northwestern, over 200 of Louisiana's best and brightest high school seniors came to Natchitoches February 6-7 for a weekend of testing and fun. Invitations were issued to a select group of students with outstanding scholastic records from around the state.

Activities got underway Friday afternoon as various advanced standing exams were administered with students being able to receive up to twelve hours of college credit in four testing sessions. Twelve hours of credit is the equivalent of one semester of work.

Friday evening, after testing had been completed, a reception and dinner-dance was held in honor of the scholars. This proved to be the most exciting part of the weekend.

On Saturday morning the students had a chance to meet with the academic department faculty to discuss curriculum. Various campus organizations were also on hand to promote

activities available and a tour of the campus and the city of Natchitoches was conducted.

Dr. Robert Alost, NSU president, initiated this program at Northwestern with the idea of offering outstanding students the opportunity to earn scholarships and other financial assistance, gain advanced standing credit in college courses, meet faculty and counselors, preview student life in both the academic and social aspects, and form lasting bonds of friendship with a peer group chosen from the best students in the state.

"We feel the weekend was a rousing success based not only on the number of students who participated, but also on the number of students who have shown continued interest in Northwestern," stated Georgia Beasley, director of admissions. "The majority of these students have already applied for admission, and we expect several others to apply before school is out in May. This is definitely a program that will be continued each year."



The Northwestern State University Phon-A-Thon conducted in early April raised thousands of dollars which NSU needs for television advertising, slide shows and billboards to enhance the job being done by the Office of Admissions and Recruiting. Sissy Mayeaux, Shawn Wyble and Robert Carroll, seated from left, were among the 200 volunteers of alumni, faculty and staff members calling former students and friends of NSU for contributions to the NSU Foundation Promotions Account.

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John Young
Ms. Nancy Zucconi

NSU Fun 'N Fitness Sports Camp Set

NSU - specifically the Department of Health, Physical Education, & Recreation working cooperatively with the Department of Athletics - will initiate for the second year the unique concept - a Fun 'N Fitness Sports Camp for youth, ages 6-14 years. The camp, with operating hours from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, is again designed to serve multiple purposes - a way to introduce fitness and sports skills to youth, a public relations tool to further unite the university and surrounding communities in a worthwhile educational project, and a way to introduce prospective students to Northwestern at an early age.

The camp will focus on the

development of psychomotor fitness and individual/team sports awareness skills for youth through specialized professional instruction in a structured, fun environment. The camp will operate two sessions, the first, June 15-26, and the second, July 6-17. Tuition for the camp will be \$50 per week/\$100 per session with a moderate reduction in tuition for those who pre-register. Attending both sessions, four weeks of camp, will afford the camper a special rate of \$160.

The NSU Fun 'N Fitness Sports Camp will be directed by Gene Newman, a doctoral student in the Department of Health, Physical Education & Recreation.

If you are wondering if you can help, the answer is yes. The scholarship fund is handled through the NSU Development Foundation by earmarking the \$50 donation for a scholarship to the NSU Fun 'N Fitness Camp. The donor may designate the specific recipient of the scholarship if so desired. For mail-in registration packets or a camp brochure, please write: NSU Fun 'N Fitness Sports Camp, P.O. Box 5557, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA 71497 or call: Department of Health, Physical Education & Recreation: 357-5126; Camp Director, Gene Newman: 352-1692



The 21st annual J. Walter Porter Forum for college business students was held March 25 at Northwestern State University. This year's forum speakers included (bottom, left to right) Elise James, NSU; Bill Long, Natchitoches; Reba Strickland, Shreveport; Rhonda Lachney, director of the forum; Lester Melnick, Dallas, Tex., and Neil Cameron, Atlanta, Ga.

Smith Takes Over Lady Demon Reins

James Smith, assistant women's basketball coach at Northwestern State University for the past eight years, has been named head coach and coordinator of women's athletics at NSU. He succeeds Pat Pierson, who resigned March 16 to become head coach at East Carolina University.

Northwestern president Dr. Robert Alost, in announcing Smith's promotion and Pierson's resignation, said, "Northwestern has accepted Coach Pierson's resignation with regret. She has built a highly-successful women's basketball program at Northwestern and has projected a positive image for the university. We extend our best wishes to Pat in her new position, and I am confident that her success will continue."

He added, "Northwestern is extremely fortunate to be able to elevate to the head coaching position an individual with James Smith's abilities and experience. He has played an important role in the establishment of a rich tradition in women's basketball at Northwestern in recent years, and we feel that he is qualified to continue and enhance that tradition as head coach."

Primarily responsible for the Lady Demon offense, Smith has helped guide NSU to top 10 national rankings in scoring offense in each of the last three seasons. The Lady Demons ranked fourth nationally with an 88.0 per game scoring average in 1984-85 and finished fifth in the nation last year with an 87.5 mark. The team was eighth this season, averaging 83.0 points a game.

Smith moved to Northwestern as an assistant after a successful high school

coaching career at Downs-ville, where he captured three consecutive district titles and a Class B state runner-up spot in his final season. His Downs-ville teams were 115-21 for a winning percentage of .845.

In addition to serving as basketball assistant, Smith coached Lady Demon softball teams for four years and guided the 1982 team to the Division 11 national championships.

A native of Spearsville, Smith had an outstanding prep athletic career in baseball and basketball. He was a four-year baseball letterman at Centenary College and also played basketball for the Gents. He received his bachelor's degree from Northeast Louisiana University in 1975.

In accepting the position as head coach and coordinator of women's athletics, Smith said, "I am grateful for the opportunity to continue to build upon a successful program at Northwestern. The university has demonstrated a strong commitment to excellence in women's athletics, and I look forward to the opportunities and the challenges of the new position."

Pierson, winningest coach in Lady Demon history, said she accepted the East Carolina coaching job "with mixed emotions. I consider Natchitoches and Northwestern home, and I am proud of the program here and appreciative of the assistance that has been provided in establishing the program. But the East Carolina position provides an opportunity to move to a larger school with a sound program in women's athletics, and I feel that it is in my best interest, professionally, to accept the job."



JAMES SMITH



PAT PIERSON

She was named the conference's Coach of the Year in 1985 after leading NSU to a perfect 10-0 record and the championship in the league's inaugural year. Pierson's most successful season was in 1985-86 when the Lady Demons were 25-7 and finished second in the Women's National Invitational Tournament.

Pierson was Coach of the Year in Louisiana in 1986 after Northwestern compiled the most victories ever by a men's or women's basketball team. It was the second time she had been honored as the state's Coach of the Year.

Northwestern athletic director Tynes Hildebrand said, "Coach Pierson has provided outstanding leadership and direction for women's athletics at Northwestern for nine years, and we are certain that the women's program will continue to progress and excel under the direction of Coach Smith."



Former Demon linebacker and current New York Giants star Gary Reasons accepts an NSU Football print from NSU President Dr. Robert A. Alost. Reasons, accompanied by his wife Terri, spoke about his experience's as a pro and college football player and on the importance of obtaining a college degree.

Gary Reasons Highlights March Football Banquet

Senior linebacker J.T. Fenceroy and junior running back John Stephens took home the most awards and current New York Giant's linebacker and former Demon star Gary Reasons delivered a down to earth speech as Northwestern State held its football awards banquet on March 16.

Reasons told the NSU players in particular and overflow crowd in general that it's important "to get your degree. Put things in perspective. It's hard to get to the NFL. There's maybe 7,000 college seniors eligible for the draft, and only 335 are drafted. Only a third of them make it."

Putting things into perspective is what Fenceroy, the leading Demon tackler for each of the past two years, has done. The Rayville native captured defensive player MVP honors for the

second straight year and became the first two-time winner of the prestigious Lester Latino Memorial Award, given to the player, as voted on by the coaching staff, who exhibits all out effort on a day-in, day-out basis. Fenceroy was also named the winner of the Joe Delaney Leadership Award on defense and named permanent team captain.

Stephens, who should surpass the late Joe Delaney next year as the all-time leading rusher in Demoo football history, took home the Offensive MVP award for the second straight year and was named winner of the team's Trident Award, which recognizes the player who performs best in a series of weight and endurance tests.

Graduating senior Brett Blaisdell was named recipient of the Joe Delaney Leadership Award on offense and named permanent team captain, while classmate Patrick Turner won the team's scholastic award for the second consecutive season.

Freshman Rusty Scoggin was presented with the second annual Iron Man Award, which goes to the first year player who contributes the most in the weight room without playing.

DEMON FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
Sept. 5	Arkansas State Univ.
SEPT. 12	McNEESE STATE
SEPT. 19	NORTH TEXAS STATE
Sept. 26	Sam Houston State
OCT. 3	NORTHEAST LOUISIANA UNIV. (HOMECOMING)
Oct. 10	Southwestern, La. (USL)
Oct. 17	Southwest Texas State
Oct. 24	Louisiana Tech-State Fair
Oct. 31	OPEN
Nov. 7	Nicholls State
NOV. 14	JACKSON STATE
NOV. 21	STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
ALL HOME GAMES IN CAPS	

Mona Martin Named to Lady Demon Staff

Mona Martin, national Coach of the Year in high school girls' basketball last season and winner of two consecutive Quad-A state championships at Natchitoches Central High School, has been named associate head coach of Northwestern State University's Lady Demon basketball team.

Northwestern president Dr. Robert Alost, in announcing the appointment of Martin, said, "Mona Martin is one of the most outstanding and successful women's basketball coaches in the state and the nation, and she will be a valuable asset to the athletic program at Northwestern."

Martin was cited as national Coach of the Year in 1986 after guiding Natchitoches Central to a 36-0 record and the state championship. Her 1986 team was

picked in the top 10 in the nation in high school girls' basketball.

Her 1987 Lady Chiefs team recently won a second straight state title and finished the season with a 34-3 record. All three losses were by only one point. Martin also led Natchitoches Central to the Quad-A state championship in 1981.

Head coach at Natchitoches Central for 11 years, Martin has a record of 266-91 for a winning percentage of .746. Her teams won six district titles and competed in post-season playoffs in 10 of her 11 years as coach, reaching the state semifinals four times.

Martin was named Louisiana's Coach of the Year in 1982 and again in 1986 and is a leading contender for the honor this year after compiling a 70-3 record

over the past two seasons.

A 1976 graduate of Northwestern, Martin also received her master's degree from NSU in 1980.

Smith said Martin was "obviously the university's first choice for the coaching vacancy. Her record and achievements would qualify Mona for any women's basketball coaching position nationwide, and the fact that she is a local coach who is familiar with our program makes her an even greater asset to Northwestern."

The new Northwestern head coach said, "I look forward to working with Mona in maintaining the tradition of excellence that has been established in Lady Demon basketball. Her experience and abilities will enhance our program."



MONA MARTIN

Starks Nails Down All-America Honors

Llewellyn Starks became Northwestern State's first individual track and field All-America in four years when the redshirt freshman long-jumped 25 feet, nine and one half inches at last weekend's NCAA Indoor Championships in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Starks, whose effort was the fifth best leap in the nation, narrowly missed qualifying for the outdoor championships, to be held at Louisiana State University June 3 through June 6, coming up half an inch short.

The frightening aspect of the Jonesboro, Louisiana native's performance is that, according to NSU head coach Leon Johnson



LLEWELLYN STARKS

"he hasn't even reached his potential yet. We hope that we can find him a good jumping pit to qualify him for the outdoor championships."

The last NSU track and field performer to capture All-America honors was Steve Stockton in the javelin back in 1983.

Kaufman Promoted To Defensive Coordinator



ART KAUFMAN

Art Kaufman, a four year veteran of the Northwestern State football coaching staff, has been elevated to the position of defensive coordinator following the resignation of John Thompson, who left NSU to coach the outside linebackers at the University of Alabama.

Demon head coach Sam Goodwin commented that "Art has been in our program for three years, coaching primarily the

linebackers. He's played a big role in our off-season conditioning and in our football program overall. I feel that he'll continue our tradition of having an outstanding defense and his presence will add to the overall continuity that I feel is essential to a winning program."

Goodwin went on to say that "this is a great opportunity for John (Thompson) as far as his future in coaching is concerned. He's done a tremendous job for us and this is a great career move for him."

Randy Huffstickler, a graduate of Southwood High School in Shreveport and a former all-conference performer at the University of Central Arkansas, will temporarily fill the position of defensive secondary coach vacated by Thompson.

Huffstickler led UCA to the Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference championship three of the four years he played (1977-80)

Gulf Star Conference Honors Pour In For NSU's Demons, Lady Demons

PAT PIERSON was named Co-Head Coach of the Year and SANDY PUGH grabbed Conference Player of the Year honors as the Gulf Star Conference passed out its basketball awards in early March.

ANNIE HARRIS was also named to the GSC's first team while center CLARA JEAN DAVIS was a second team selection. From the Demon side of things, sharpshooting guard Victor Willis merited first team honors while junior center George Jones was a second team selection for the second straight season.

PIERSON took a club that was picked to finish second at season's start to a 9-1 conference record and share of the league championship. After posting an overall mark of 19-8, Pierson guided NSU to eight straight winning seasons and a composite 166-89 won-loss worksheet, an overall winning percentage of .650.

PUGH tossed in 21.1 points per game this year, including 13

straight twenty-plus performances to close out the season as the 5-11 senior forward became the only GSC scoring champion in NSU hoop history. Her 8.9 rebound figure was sixth best in the league, though she pulled down ten boards per contest in conference action and popped in 22.9 points against all GSC foes.

HARRIS, a second team selection each of the last two years, made her presence felt in GSC action by leading the league in three point shots. By virtue of her twenty successful misses from beyond the three point line, Harris converted more three pointers than three of the six GSC teams while averaging 20.7 points per game — second best in the league behind Pugh — and an even seven rebounds per contest.

DAVIS, a 6-1 senior center, led the Lady Demons in rebounding from start to finish, yanking down 258 boards (9.6 average) while also doing some damage on the offensive end with her 11.5 scoring average. Davis managed 485 rebounds during her brief

two year NSU career, a figure that places her eighth on the all-time career list.

For the second year in a row, WILLIS led the Demons in scoring with a 15.1 average, finding his name as the top NSU point maker in 16 of 28 games, including a stretch of eight straight games midway through the season. Willis, who finished fourth in the GSC scoring race, ends his NSU career with a 15.4 average.

JONES led the Gulf Star Conference in field goal percentage for the second consecutive season, converting 130 of 211 (61.6%) of his action shots in all games and an incredible 50 of 74 (67.5%) in league action. The 6-6 junior center hauled down 7.4 rebounds, including 8.4 in GSC games. He is 15th on the all-time rebounding list and in the same spot on the all-time scoring chart.

Don Beasley's Demons had their first winning season since the 1981-82 campaign with a 15-13 final mark.

and was an all-conference quarterback for each of his four varsity seasons. After coaching the offensive backs at Lamar for three seasons, Huffstickler moved on to Southwest Oklahoma last year as offensive coordinator.

Goodwin said that "I've known Randy for nine years and have been extremely impressed with his knowledge and awareness in all areas associated with a successful football program."

**Support
Demon
Athletics**



Demons Take Field With New Look, Attitude

Baseball over the years has not been kind to Northwestern State. The Demons have been haunted by season records like 16-42 (in 1981), 17-45 (1984), 19-34 (1985) and a 15-35 mark a year ago.

But the dismal season's are now in the past as NSU has a new coach, a new infield surface and, perhaps most of all, a new attitude.

"We've had a real fine attitude," says Johnnie Emmons, who moved from the tennis court to the baseball diamond last July. "There have been no gripes at all and we've worked the kids hard, lifting weights at 6:30 in the morning and practicing from two until five in the afternoon. I'm very satisfied with our work habits."

Emmons thinks his squad will be competitive for two reasons: defense and pitching. "We have a good defensive team," says the rookie coach. "Our outfield speed is good and our infielders are very adequate. Our new artificial turf surface gives a true bounce and the kids really like it."

The first year coach has overhauled the pitching staff, which has a balloon-like 6.40 earned run average in 1986. The wingers that Emmons is depending on to bring respectability to his mound corps include a pair of "K's" in Kenny Knots and Kenny Morris. Knots is a returner from last year and Morris is a transfer from Angelina Junior College. "Those boys have the most experience and started a lot for us in our Fall games," Emmons says.

Freshman Bob Kairis is another talented hurler who will be in the everyday line-up either on the hill or in right field. "We expect a lot from him," Emmons says of the player who went 11-2 last year with a 1.91 ERA and 125 strikeouts for Morton East High School in Illinois.

Other Demons answering Emmons' call to arms are long relievers Scott Buetow, Jeff Casey, Derek Moss and John Jackson. Jeff George

will be used in short relief while Hans Williams and Rob Breutsch will step in as starters when the onslaught of doubleheaders begin to pile up.

Around the Demon infield, Chris Wells, the team's top returning power threat with six home runs and 29 rbi's, is anchored as the first baseman with freshman John Barte, possessor of a good glove, backing him up.

Second base is three deep with freshman John Surname ahead of both Ronnie Delatte and Kevin Cox. "Surname has great baseball knowledge, is pretty good defensively and has a good bat," says Emmons of his second sacker.

Dickey Marze, a returner from last year, fills the hole at shortstop. Marze improved with playing time a year ago and is solid in the field and at the plate. He's backed up by Brian Meaux, a jack of all trades who will also see some playing time at third base as a back-up to returning starter John Smith. Doug Sands, another returning player, should also be stopping ground balls alongside the third base bag.

Emmons has catchers galore with Felix Rosario, a superb handler of pitchers and the club's chief power threat behind Wells, backed up by Ray Gill, Neil Hooper and former NSU footballer Joel Walker.

Emmons likes what he sees of his outfield as speed and arm strength is the name of starters Vaughn Williams, Kairis' and Sonny Terrell's game. The talent level doesn't drop all that much when Brian Duthu, Marcelino Reed and Terrence Martin come into the game.

"We'll have to win with pitching and defense because we won't score many runs offensively," says Emmons. Those two areas must come through if NSU is to make this a "diamond" year.



CHRIS WELLS



BOB KAIRIS

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The Alumni Columns
Northwestern State University
Natchitoches, La. 71497



Northwestern State University

ALUMNI COLUMNS

Natchitoches, Louisiana

Spring 1987

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Name _____
Maiden Name _____ SSN: _____
Street _____ State _____ City _____ Zip _____
NSU Curriculum _____ Class of _____
Degree(s) _____ Date _____
Organizations involved with at NSU _____
Place of Employment _____
Company Employed By _____
Title and/or Duties _____
Occupation _____
Married _____
Single _____
Spouse Name _____ Maiden Name _____ NSU Graduate _____
If so, Year Graduated _____
☐ Please change my address to that above _____
Number of Children _____ Ages _____
If college age, where attending college? _____
☐ Please send admissions information from NSU
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Send Information To: _____

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— Hall Brick and Print Sale _____
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— Louisiana Scholars College _____
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